

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Original) An electric stapler comprising:

a driver unit including a driver and driver lifting means;

a clincher opposed to the driver, wherein sheets of paper are pinched by the driver unit and the clincher, a staple is injected by driving the driver and the sheets are bound by folding to bend leg portions of the staple by the clincher;

recess grooves formed at two contiguous portions of a staple injecting port of the driver unit;

a press blade provided on a side of the clincher, wherein the press blade and the recess grooves are fittable to each other; and

a press blade lifting means,

wherein a fold line is formed by pressing the sheets by the press blade and the recess grooves by driving the press blade after operating to bind the sheet.

2. (Original) The electric stapler according to claim 1, wherein the sheet is clamped by the press blade and the driver unit by driving the press blade before starting to operate to bind the sheet and the press blade is further driven after operating to bind the sheet to form the fold line by pressing the sheet by the press blade and the recess groove.

3. (Original) The electric stapler according to claim 1, further comprising switching means for switching ON and OFF an operation of the press blade lifting means.

4. (New) An electric stapler comprising:

a driver unit including a driver and a staple injecting port;

a clincher opposed to the driver, wherein sheets of paper are pinched by the driver unit and the clincher, a staple is injected by the driver and the sheets are bound by folding to bend leg portions of the staple by the clincher;

recess grooves formed on the driver unit at two contiguous portions of the staple injecting port; and

a press blade provided on the clincher, wherein the press blade is liftable to fit with the recess grooves,

wherein a fold line is formed on the sheets by pressing the sheets by the press blade and the recess grooves by lifting the press blade.

5. (New) The electric stapler according to claim 4, wherein the press blade is lifted to pinch the sheets when the staple is injected, and

wherein the press blade is further lifted when the fold line is formed on the sheets.

6. (New) A method for binding sheets of paper and forming a fold line on the sheets comprising:

pinching sheets of paper by a driver unit and a clincher;

injecting a staple by the driver from a staple injecting port on the driver unit;

bending leg portions of the staple by the clincher;

lifting a press blade provided on the clincher to fit with recess grooves formed on the driver unit at two contiguous portions of the staple injecting port;

forming a fold line on the sheets.

7. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein, in the pinching step, the sheets are clamped by the press blade and the driver unit.